

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSC-01 EB-07
SIL-01 AGRE-00 /075 W
-----043314 221540Z /42

P R 221414Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVAEOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4674
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2922

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, ES
SUBJECT: ROMERO'S CABINET

1. THE LAST WEEKS HAVE SEEN A CONSTANT FLURRY OF SPECULATION AND "INSIDE INFORMATION" CONCERNING THE CABINET THAT WILL BE INSTALLED WITH GENERAL ROMERO ON JULY 1. NAMES AND PORTFOLIOS HAVE CHANGED FROM LIST TO LIST, EVEN THOSE PREPARED BY THOSE INVOLVED IN THE SELECTION PROCESS. THIS IS REFLECTIVE OF THE DIFFICULTIES THE INCOMING PRESIDENT APPEARS TO BE HAVING IN FILLING SOME OF THE CRITICAL POSITIONS. FROM EMBASSY CONTACTS WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE TOUGHEST TO FILL HAS BEEN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WITH THE FIRST THREE CHOICES TURNING DOWN THE HONOR WITH VARIOUS EXCUSES. THE BEST GUESS IS THAT THESE THREE, ALL CIVILIANS, SIMPLY DIDN'T WANT TO RISK FOLLOWING IN THE PATH OF MAURICIO BORGONOVO.

2. THE OFFICIAL LIST OF NOMINEES IS EXPECTED TO BE RELEASED IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. WHAT FOLLOWS ARE THE NAMES THAT THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN TOLD BY SEVERAL SOURCES ARE ON THE LATEST
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PROPOSED APPOINTEE LIST, MEANING THAT ONE OR ANOTHER MIGHT STILL BE CHANGED. THIS LIST IS OF MAJOR APPOINTMENTS, NOT JUST CABINET POSITIONS.

3. MINISTER OF DEFENSE - GENERAL FEDERICO CASTILLO YANES
(THE GENERAL IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN HIS PRESENT POSITION THROUGH DEC. 1977 ONLY.)

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS - MAJOR AND AMBASSADOR ALVARO
ERNESTO MARTINEZ (PRESENT AMBASSADOR TO LONDON)

MINISTER OF INTERIOR - LT. COL MAURICIO VIDES CASANOVA (PRESENT
PERSONAL SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT)

MINISTER OF LABOR - LT. COL. ROBERTO ESCOBAR GARCIA (PRESENT
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE)

MINISTER OF JUSTICE - DR. RAFAEL FLORES Y FLORES (PRESENT MIN-
ISTER TO THE PRESIDENCY)

MINISTER OF EDUCATION - DR. CARLOS ANTONIO HERRERA REBOLLO
(EX-MAYOR
OF SAN SALVADOR FOR PDC)

MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS - ING. LEON RIVAS DURAN (PRESIDENT
OF PRIVATE CONSULTING FIRM)

MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY - COL. JUAN ANTONIO MARTINEZ VARELA
(PRESENT AMBASSADOR TO MADRID) OR DR. FELIX CASTILLO MAYORGA
(DIRECTOR OF SALVAYMHAN EXPORT COMMITTEE)

PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT - LT. COL. BENEDICTO RODRIQUEZ
MIRANDA (PRESENT PRESIDENT OF ORDEN)
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MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH - COL. JOSE FERNANDO GUEVARA SERRANODN
(DIRECTOR
OF MILITARY HOSPITAL)

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE - MAURICIO CASTRO ARAGON (VARIOUS COMPANY
DIRECTORATES, INCLUDING MATADEROS DEL SALVADOR)

DIRECTOR OF MILITARY SCHOOL - COL. EUGENIO VIDES CASANOVA
(PRESENT PRESIDENT OF INSAFI)

PRESIDENT OF INSAFI - MAJOR TEODORO VLADIMIRO VILLALTA BONILLA
(PRESENT DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD
AND NOW IN U.S. ON LEADER GRANT)

PRESIDENT OF BANCO AGROPECUARIA - DR. ROGELIO CHAVEZ (PRESENT
PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT)

CHIEF-OF-STAFF OF ARMED FORCE - COL. JOSE EDUARDO IRAHETA
(PRESENT COMMANDER OF ARTILLERY BRIGADE)

PRESIDENT OF ANTEL

(TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY - COL. JOSE NAPOLEON AGREDA
(PRESENT COMMANDER FIRST BRIGADE)

PRESIDENT OF ISTU
(TOURISM INSTITUTE - GEN. ARMANDO LEONIDAS ROJAS PAREDES
(PRESENT CHIEF-OF-STAFF OF ARMED FORCE)

4. THE ONLY NAME NOT YET REVEALED UNOFFICIALLY IS THAT OF A
NEW MINISTER OF ECONOMY. PEHAPS THE MOST CURIOUS THING ABOUT
THE LISTS HAT HAVE SURFACED, INCLUDING THIS "FINAL" SNE, IS
THE ABSENCE OF THE NAME JULIO ASTACIO, THE VICE-PRESIDENT ELECT.
SINCE A VICE PRESIDENT WITHOUT A CABINET PORTFOLIO IS ESSENTIALLY
POWERLESS, NOT TO MENTION WITHOUT SALARY, EVERYONE EXPECTED
ASTACIO TO BE EITHER MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY OR PUBLIC HEALTH.
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HIS ABSENCE INDICATES THAT RECENT STORIES THAT HE IS ALREADY
UNPOPULAR WITH ROMERO'S CLOSEST MILITARY AND CIVILIAN ADVISORS
COULD BE TRUE.

5. FURTHER BIO DATA FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL.
LUBENSKY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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